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*Chrono file*

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE IN FULL

8 June 1954

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Henry HOLLAND

SUBJECT : Support by the Department

1. Our representatives in the field have advised us that the people of Guatemala apparently accepted the premise that the U.S. has a vital and over-riding interest in denying the USSR a lodgement on Guatemalan soil. In line with this premise, it is requested that you consider suggesting to the Secretary of State or some other appropriate person of your selection that a statement be issued at a propitious moment to the effect that the U.S. is, as a matter of course, taking a sympathetic and active interest in the courageous efforts of all Guatemalans from all walks of life to ward off Communist attempts to destroy the freedom and independence of Guatemala. In the opinion of our field personnel, such a statement would not be construed as unilateral intervention in the domestic affairs of Guatemala, but rather would be accepted as a corollary to the Secretary of State's statement at Caracas that the domination of the political institutions of any American state, "would be a threat to the sovereignty and independence of us all, endangering the peace of America and calling for appropriate action in accordance with existing treaties."

2. An official statement of the kind suggested above, would be a major contribution to the success of our mission. It would undoubtedly stiffen the backs of those political elements which now seem resigned to Communist ascendancy, and it would push off the fence certain individuals who feel that no enterprise of this kind can possibly succeed unless the U.S. puts the full weight of its moral and material power behind it.